

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
June 1, 2011

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (80/89)
Eugene Leapley (56/62)
Maria Greenberg (17/19)
Lou Spacco (13/14)
John Hitzel (13/15)
Fred Pazona (5/6)
Katherine Ariens (4/4)

Present

William Dryburgh
Eugene Leapley
Maria Greenberg
John Hitzel
Katherine Ariens

County Representatives

John Jackson, Director
Bob Starr, Commission Liaison
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guest

Commissioner Constance
Douglas Tucker

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 4, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – drug testing, Placida Boat Ramp expansion public meeting, recycling containers, mechanical reduction, Harold Avenue After School program, scrub jays in Tippecanoe Environment Park, Community Garden irrigation at South County, swim lessons and yoga participation
- Eugene Leapley – heat systems at pools

III. New Business

- **At-Large appointment (Fred Pazona)**
 - At-Large position was discussed
 - With no official resignation, need to wait until August for any action.
 - Lou Spacco spoke with Commissioner Starr about re-districting and said he would be interested in the At-Large position.
 - A legal review was requested regarding this position.
- **Plan to clean up our problem parks**
 - McGuire Park problems with vagrants and drugs
 - Harold Avenue basketball courts, problems with language and drugs, Mike Norton is meeting with coaches to discuss.
 - Overall clean-out of areas is a sheriffs issue
 - Commissioner Starr said he would write the letter immediately to inform the Sheriff's office of the amount of vandalism in our parks.
 - Commissioner Constance - need for locals to report immediately when they see illegal activity in the area.
 - Quarterly report on vandalism for this fiscal year is \$17,000 to date
 - Installing Neighborhood Watch signs was suggested and to have neighbors volunteer to do damage control.

IV. Old Business

- **Parking Meters**
 - RFP for new meters that will take coins, cash, credit card swipes and be iPhone friendly has been submitted.
- **RFP for Sports Park Management**
 - No decision made
- **Dogs in Parks**
 - On June 14 BCC Agenda
 - An outline of a dog on the sign to be placed on one side of the sidewalk was suggested
- **Designated Areas for Smoking in Parks**
 - Working with the YMCA, the Director has attended the first meeting of the Community Healthy Living Initiative Committee; initial goal is to develop tobacco-free areas in our parks.
 - Director has initiated a no smoking policy for the front entrances of all recreation centers, libraries and the decks of our pools which is proving to be successful.
 - Commissioner Starr feels we might get support at the Little Leagues games and he said he would support the initiative.
 - Doug Tucker relayed his experiences with smoking at his son's baseball games and asked for a uniform policy for the Sports Park and athletic fields/parks. He feels children do not have a voice regarding coaches smoking in dug-outs.
 - The Director agrees we need designated smoking areas; it needs to be under ordinance to be effective, with two public hearings and then come to the BCC for approval.

Motion presented by Katherine Ariens, seconded by John Hitzel to establish tobacco-free areas in any park that has youth activities. Motion was unanimously carried.

- **Beach Patrol/First Aid Station**
 - Cost estimate minimum of \$500,000 which includes salaries, benefits, material, supplies, equipment, and shelter; this would open the door to a liability issue.
 - Final decision by the BCC; Commission Starr stated he will not support.

V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for June 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Mid-County Library
 - Maria Greenberg stated she did not attend the last meeting but will be there on the 8th
 - The Director mentioned the meeting is well attended and a cooperative group.

VI. Member Issues

- John Hitzel mentioned that he has enjoyed working with Eugene Leapley.
- Bill Dryburgh agreed he had fun with Eugene.
- Katherine Ariens stated she is happy!
- Eugene Leapley said that he has enjoyed the many years he has volunteered on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

VII. Director's Report

- Updates
 - John Jackson gave updates on (in collaboration with the YMCA) the CHLI program, summer camp, a triathlon and establishing an after-school program at Harold Avenue Recreation Center.
 - Harborside magazine article on Ann Dever Memorial Park in this month's issue was excellent.
 - Discussion of Channel 20 programming to put together 30 second spots highlighting our parks.
 - TV screens at the Sports Park that will display 60 second spots are in the works also.

VIII. Citizen Input

- Doug Tucker talked about Harold Avenue Park; he would like the old covered dugouts upgraded/replaced with the fence style dugouts that are already there. Feels the old styles are a safety issue. Scoreboards problems; he would like them repaired/replaced; concession stand needs upgrades.
- The Director will speak with Andy Stevens and get an estimate to replace the dug outs and new scoreboard prices.
- Katherine Ariens suggested a community effort to update the concession stand; paint the building ... the Director stated there might be support from members of the Little Leagues.

IX. Announcements

- None

X. Upcoming Events

- Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:15 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Robert Skidmore, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Robert Starr, District 3
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Raymond Sandrock, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator